



Sgt. Wayne Campbell

An explosive ordnance technician from EOD Unit 18 marks a piece of ordnance during an exercise at the drop zone here Tuesday.

EOD strengthens sweeping skills

SGT. WAYNE CAMPBELL
THE HORN COURIER

Members of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit 18 attached to Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, cleared an area large enough for a HC-130 to land during an exercise here Nov. 30.

The purpose of the drill was to maintain proficiency in helicopter rope suspension training utilizing the fast rope and to hit the ground running into whatever scenario they may encounter, according to Chief Petty Officer Daniel R. Trout, EOD senior technician, EOD Unit 18.

"This level of training keeps the men sharp and conditioned," said Trout.

The scenario: an American HC-130 was scheduled to land at an airfield used by a host nation as a paratrooper drop zone, but

the area was littered with unexploded ordnance.

The EOD team had four hours to sweep the proposed landing site for explosives, identify the ordnance and dispose of the danger in time for the aircraft to land.

To begin the exercise the team boarded a CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 and was flown to the exercise site. Once over the site the team fast-rope'd from the aircraft with all the equipment necessary to do the job.

When the team landed in the mud filled field, they coordinated with a host nation military member to gain as much information they can to do the job safely and effectively.

Once the team received as much in intelligence as possible



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Members of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit 18 fast-rope out of a CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 during an exercise Tuesday.



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Petty Officer 1st Class Conor McCarty, Explosive Ordnance Technician, EOD Unit 18, carefully examines explosives found in a field during an exercise Tuesday.

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